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James Donovan to Poll Democrats on Candidacy

James B. Donovan said yesterday that he would consult Democratic leaders throughout the state to see if his running for either Governor or Senator could help unify the party.

Mr. Donovan is a member of the New York City Board of Education. He is the lawyer who negotiated the exchange of Francis Gary Powers, the U-2 pilot downed in Russia, for Col. Rudolf Abel, the convicted Russian spy.

At a press conference yesterday at the Overseas Press Club, 54 West Fortyeth Street, Mr. Donovan implied he would be as much interested in the nomination for Governor as Senator but he would not campaign for either.

Mr. Donovan is now negotiating for the release of nearly 1,000 Cuban prisoners taken during last year's abortive Cuban invasion. He said he would be willing to go to Havana to obtain their release.